



**North Central Texas Council of Governments**

**Date:** September 26, 2006

**To:** Mayors, County Judges and County Commissioners in North Central Texas

**Subject:** Change a Light, Change North Texas

The North Central Texas Council of Governments and the EPA's Dallas Regional Office are united in our commitment to helping improve local air quality conditions, and to supporting municipalities and businesses in their efforts to do the same. As a reflection of our shared commitment, we encourage you to join us in promoting this year's ENERGY STAR "Change a Light, Change the World Campaign" within your organizations.

The cornerstone of the campaign is the "Change a Light Pledge," a simple method to inspire communities across the Metroplex to help conserve energy and reduce the emission of air pollutants in our community. By making the pledge, individuals commit to replacing at least one standard light bulb in their homes with an ENERGY STAR Compact Fluorescent bulb.

For every standard bulb that is replaced with a Compact Fluorescent bulb, over 280 kilowatt-hours of energy are conserved and over 440 pounds of greenhouse gas emissions are prevented. If every employee in each of your organizations were to change just one bulb in their homes, the resulting air quality improvement could easily surpass the benefits of removing several hundred cars from our roads. And, every one of those employees could realize the economic gain that corresponds to using more efficient lighting. On average, lighting accounts for nearly 20 percent of the average home's electric bill, but ENERGY STAR qualified light bulbs use at least two-thirds less energy than do standard bulbs, and they last up to ten times longer.

Going into its 2<sup>nd</sup> year, the National campaign goal is to encourage at least 500,000 people to make the pledge between October 4 and the end of November 2006, and this year it's easier than ever for municipalities to leverage the "Change a Light Campaign" as an employee outreach and environmental awareness activity. To register your organization as a pledge driver, simply visit the campaign's website at [http://www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?c=change\\_light.changealight\\_pledge](http://www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?c=change_light.changealight_pledge) and enter your goal. While at the site, be sure to check out the resources available to help you make your pledge drive a success.

Participating in this year's ENERGY STAR "Change a Light, Change the World Campaign" is another way communities can demonstrate their commitment to protecting and improving air quality in the Dallas-Fort Worth area and we look forward to your support.

Mike Eastland  
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